

ITEMS OF INTEREST.

Personal and Literary.

—Paul Gervais, an eminent French novelist, is dead.

—Florence Marryat's latest novel is "Her World Against a Lie."

—A volume of Hans Christian Andersen's letters has appeared in Denmark.

—Gladstone's admirers intend to build a hospital to his memory that will cost \$110,000.

—It is said that the Goethe collection of the late Bayard Taylor, consisting of rich and rare volumes, some dating from 1790, will soon be sold.

—Gen. Jubal A. Early will write "Virginia's Part in the Late War," in connection with Prof. Conrad's "History of Virginia for the Use of Schools and Colleges."

—Mr. F. Hassaurek, the well known editor of Cincinnati, who was United States Minister to Ecuador under President Lincoln, has written a romance called "The Secret of the Andes."

—Miss Blanche Nevins, sister of Captain Nevins of the Philadelphia Press, has been commissioned by the State of Philadelphia to make a statue of General Peter Muhlenburg.

—R. W. Gilder, of Scribner's Monthly, it is said, has broken down in health from too assiduous devotion to his work and will sail for Europe shortly to spend four or five months, principally in Venice.

—Ralph Waldo Emerson is thus described: His figure is still erect and firm, his face still full of vigorous expression, and he talks with accustomed strength, though his memory is not so good as it used to be. He still holds his faith in the future of humanity.

—Of English authors named Smith there have been 810 whose full names are known. The next longest list is of Wilsons, who number 330; and the next Williamsons, of whom there have been 325. The Taylors come next, and the Whites next after them.

—The Goodale children, who write for Scribner's and who lately published a volume entitled "Apple Blossoms," have a rival in Maggie Quinn, a girl of 11, in Atlanta, Ga., who rejoices in the title of "The Child Poet" and has just published a poetical book called "Violets."

—It is said that there is little or no hope of another novel from the pen of George Eliot, at least for years to come. Mr. Lewis left at his death an additional work on "Positive Philosophy," to the completion of which she has already begun to devote all her time and energies.

—Madame Von Stamwitz is to appear as the heroine in Joaquin Miller's new play, "Mexico." The New York correspondent of the Indianapolis Journal says she is "such a superbly stately lady—nearly six feet tall, and generously endowed; a large, eloquent mouth, large, lustrous eyes, large cordial hand which does half of her talking, and a turbulence of dusky hair crowning a majestic Juno."

School and Church.

—There are 178 schools of stenography in the German Empire, of which 57 are in Saxony.

—Ex-students of Vassar College who marry, are alluded to touchingly by the *Macellany*, the college paper, as the "late departed."

—To maintain its 21 universities, which have about 20,000 students attending them, the German Empire expends annually \$2,500,000.

—Mr. Potter, American Consul at Wurtemberg, Germany, thinks that the young men of America acquire more evil tendencies than saving knowledge in the Universities of Germany.

—The report of the Trustees of the University of Alabama, for the sessions of 1876-77 and '78, to the General Assembly shows that the institution is in admirable working order and its condition to be very satisfactory.

—Professor Swing, of Chicago, concludes that "sensationalism" is a term which ought never to be applied to the manner of thought belonging to the pulpit and that it is not the duty of the preacher to keep every body awake. He recalls the fact that while even Paul preached a young man went to sleep and fell out of the window.

—Miss Josie Baker, though only 16, has just been appointed a tutor of the Greek language at Simpson College, Indiana, Illinois. She reads and writes Greek fluently, is equally proficient in Latin, and is familiar with French and German. When but eight years old she had read three books of Homer, as well as other Greek authors, and at 14 had made a complete lexicon of a tragedy of Sophocles.

—The California Constitutional Convention has so amended the educational article as to exclude all foreign languages from the primary and grammar schools of the State. It also provides that the text-books adopted shall continue in use for not less than four years. It declares the University to be a "perpetual institution of the State;" its officers are to hold office for such time as the Legislature may prescribe. It is to be kept from all political influences.

Science and Industry.

—Steel rails are produced with one-fourth the fuel and one-third the labor required in the production of iron.

—A flexible carbon for electric lights,

is a new and important invention just patented in England. It can be rolled up and stowed away in small space.

—Combs of real tortoise-shell are massive in design, and show balls and bars instead of the foliage patterns which were once in vogue.

—A new street railway track has been successfully tried in England. The rail is a flat plate regularly pierced with holes which fit protuberances on the wheels.

—The statements of the several express companies show that their business for 1878 was some 20 per cent. heavier than in any of the three years preceding.

—A Nuremberg chemist is said to have discovered the secret of black Venetian glass manufacture. Sand, sulphur, and 15 per cent. of manganese are employed.

—The Indianapolis, Cincinnati and Lafayette management is using barbed wire extensively for fencing purposes. It is put up at an expense of only 50 cents per rod.

—The principal clay-pipe manufactories of the world are at Dorsetshire and Devonshire, England, where a pure clay is found in abundance. Several million dollars' worth of clay-pipes are annually made in England.

—The *Ice-Trade Journal* says the cost of harvesting this winter's ice crop in the United States will be larger than ever before. Four millions dollars, it is estimated, will be paid for cutting, hauling and storing, and at least six times that amount for marketing in spring and summer.

—The General Ice Factory Company, having an agency in New York, contemplates a novel experiment—that of heating a room by means of open fires, to a temperature of between 95 deg. and 100 deg. Fahrenheit, and while the fires are burning reduce the temperature by their machine to freezing point.

—A little cotton mill has been started at Westminster, S. C., the machinery costing only about \$2,500 run by eight hands. The capital was made up by a company of farmers and one mill owner (who furnished the water power) who manufacture their own cotton from the seed, and turn out about \$25 worth of yarns per day at present low prices. They have a home market for their farm products, and greatly increase the value of their cotton.

Haps and Mishaps.

—Mrs. Caroline Davis, of Bay City, Mich., fell dead while hanging out clothes.

—A daughter of James Robinson, who lives near Stanford, McLean County, Ill., lost her life by her clothes taking fire from a grate.

—Louisa Walter, 9 years of age, was choked to death in Chicago by one of those noisome toys termed a balloon-whistle, which she accidentally sucked into her throat.

—Miss Annie Truitt was thrown from a horse at Flat Rock, Knox County, Ind. Her foot caught in the stirrup, and she was dragged about 200 yards, receiving fatal injuries.

—Marie Azurine, a female trapeze performer, fell during a performance at the Theater Comique, Detroit, Mich., striking on an orchestra chair 30 feet below and receiving probably fatal injuries.

—A 6-year-old daughter of James Robinson, near Stanford, Ill., was burned to death by her clothing catching fire from the stove while her parents were away.

—At Boxville, Hamilton County, Ind., Denny Kearns, a miller, was attempting to throw a belt on a corn-sheller, when he was caught by the shaft and whirled around several times, breaking both legs, severing one foot, tearing one from the socket, and otherwise injuring him fatally.

—Robert Smith and his daughter were riding in a wagon near Littleton, W. Va., when the horses became frightened at an approaching train and ran towards the railway track. The daughter jumped from the wagon and fell directly in front of the locomotive, which ran over and crushed her to death.

—At Joliet, Ill., Bridget and Maggie Crane, sisters, were drowned in the Des Plaines River. The girls were aged 20 and 14, and lived with their widowed mother, near the river. The younger sister went to the stream for water and broke through the ice. Bridget attempted to rescue her and both were drowned.

Foreign Notes.

—It is reported that Prince Leopold, the eighth child and fourth son of Queen Victoria, now in the twenty-sixth year of his age, will enter the Church of England.

—Princess Matilda, the niece of the King of Saxony, is one of the few marriageable daughters of Roman Catholic reigning houses, and has been for some time spoken of as the future Crown Princess of Austria.

—The marriage of the Duke of Connaught is definitely fixed for the 13th of March. A fancy ball on a magnificent scale is to be given in the Exposition Palace, Dublin, on the occasion of the Duke's marriage.

—Garibaldi has written a letter to the effect that if the present King renders Italy prosperous, he will deserve the gratitude of all Italians, including the Republicans. The latter pretend that the old man has sold out in his dotage.

—It is said that Princess Beatrice, Queen Victoria's youngest child, will soon visit Berlin, and it is further rumored that the trip is not entirely unconnected with a matrimonial scheme planned in her behalf by her eldest sister, the Crown Princess of Germany.

—The King of Spain recently met King Louis II. of Braganza of Portugal in Elva, on the frontier, on the occasion of the opening of a new railroad from one kingdom to the other, and it is said that their meeting, ostensibly to honor the opening of the railroad, was really to treat upon the marriage of Louis's eldest son to the Princess Maria Pia, second sister of Alfonso.

French Newspaper Wit.

[Translated from the Paris Journals.]

—Mme. X—, who has no teeth, is in the habit of speaking very ill of Mme. Z—, who has very ugly ones. Their respective situations were thus pleasantly summed up by a mutual friend: "If Mme. X— had teeth she would be quite as ugly as Mme. Z—."

—A gentleman who is no longer young and who never was handsome, says to a child in the presence of its parents: "Well, my child, what do you think of me, eh?" The little one makes no reply, and the gentleman continues: "Well, so you won't tell me what you think of me. Why won't you?" "Cause I don't want to get licked."

—There are Gascons in America as everywhere else. One of them recently said: "In the State of Ohio the cold is so intense in the winter that this happened to me: I was attacked by a robber, I took out my pistol. There was powder in it, but no ball. I was inspired by a lucky idea. I spit in the barrel and fired. The spittle froze on its way, and the malefactor was shot dead!"

—Mme. R—, a Parisienne, whose least defect is to be as old as she is coquettish, arrived the other evening after 11 o'clock at the house of a friend, where only a few intimates had been invited. "How late you are, ma toute belle," said the lady of the house, in a tone of friendly reproach. "I am very sorry," replied Mme. R—, "but the truth is that I have a femme de chambre who is slowness personified. Would you believe it? She took more than an hour and a half to dress my hair." "You had one consolation," interrupted one of the ladies present, "and that was that you might have taken a walk during the operation."

—Two friends lived close to each other, one of whom was in a state of constant impecuniosity. The latter got up in the middle of the night and rushed breathless into the house and bedroom of his more fortunate neighbor. "I have had an awful dream," he said. "I fancied you were ruined and reduced to the last degree of want. I rose from bed under the impression of this nightmare, and I ran to my desk to get some money to take to you."

"How good of you!" said the friend. "Yes," said the dreamer, "and you can imagine my annoyance on finding that I had not a sou in my drawer. It was completely empty. By the by, do you happen to have 50 louis in the house?"

Appropriations for Rivers and Harbors.

WASHINGTON, February 21.—The River and Harbor bill ordered reported to the House contains the following appropriations for Western and Southern States:

Removal of snags, etc., from Mississippi River.....	\$100,000
Removal of snags, etc., Missouri River.....	60,000
Removal of snags, Arkansas River.....	30,000
Ohio River.....	200,000
Improvement of the Mississippi, between the mouth of the Illinois and the Ohio.....	200,000
Improvement of the Missouri River, above the mouth of the Yellowstone.....	25,000
Improvement of the Missouri River, between Council Bluffs and Omaha.....	25,000
Improvement of the Missouri River, between Esapor and Nebraska City.....	25,000
Improvement of the Missouri River, at Atchison.....	20,000
Improvement of the Missouri River, at Sioux City.....	10,000
Improvement of the Missouri River, at Fort Leavenworth.....	10,000
Improvement of Missouri River, at St. Joseph.....	9,000
Survey of Missouri River, from its mouth to Sioux City, for examination of snags.....	25,000
Missouri River, near Kansas River.....	30,000
Snagboat for Upper Mississippi.....	20,000
Mississippi River from St. Paul to Des Moines Rapids.....	100,000
Missouri River near the mouth of the Illinois River.....	10,000
Kentucky River.....	10,000
Improvement of the Des Moines Rapids and opening the canal.....	65,000
Galena River and Harbor.....	15,000
St. Louis River.....	5,000
St. Croix River.....	6,000
Red River of the North.....	10,000
Illinois River.....	40,000
Big Sandy River.....	12,000
Big Horn River.....	30,000
Duluth Harbor.....	20,000
Ontonagon Harbor.....	17,000
Wisconsin River, Wisconsin.....	12,000
Fort Washington Harbor, Wisconsin.....	7,500
Milwaukee River.....	100,000
Improvement of Fox River, Illinois.....	7,500
Improvement of Calumet River.....	12,000
Manatee River.....	10,000
White River, Michigan.....	7,500
Grand Haven Harbor.....	90,000
South Haven Harbor.....	7,000
Michigan City Harbor.....	20,000
Chicago Harbor.....	75,000
Harbor of Refuge, Lake Huron.....	75,000
St. Marys River and St. Marys Falls Canal.....	210,000
Detroit River.....	50,000
Saginaw River.....	8,000
Cleveland Harbor, Ohio.....	100,000
Ashtabula Harbor, Ohio.....	9,000
Toledo Harbor, Ohio.....	10,000
Cedar City, Mo.....	10,000
Glasgow, Mo.....	15,000
White River, Indiana.....	25,000
Osage River, Kansas.....	10,000
St. Louis River, St. Anthony Falls.....	10,000
Removal of raft, Red River.....	15,000
Removal of snags, Red River.....	24,000
Removal of obstructions in Red River, Mouth of Red River.....	45,000
Ouachita River.....	10,000
Gauging waters of Mississippi River.....	5,000
Tennessee River, above Chattanooga.....	11,500
Tennessee River, below Chattanooga.....	210,000
Natchez River.....	5,000
Memphis Harbor.....	37,000
Vicksburg Harbor.....	27,000
Grenada Harbor.....	7,000
Mississippi River.....	15,000
Cumberland River, below Nashville.....	25,000
Cumberland River, above Nashville.....	39,000
Buffalo Harbor.....	100,000
Oswego Harbor.....	90,000
Improvement of Lake Erie.....	150,000
Improvement of Lake Erie.....	150,000
TOTAL amount appropriated by the bill.....	\$7,750,000

Old Si on "Lack of Confidence."

After the old man had taken his orders for the day he stopped to say: "Hit 'pears ter me dat editoriel dis mornin' on de hard times hit de nales mo' squar'ly dan you's in de habit!"

"How do you make that out?" "Well, de idee wuz dat de 'kaashun ob de hard times wuz de lackness ob konfidence twixt man an' man. Dat's jess whar I puts hit, too. Dar ain't no kondfidence nowhar!"

"We spoke generally of the public."

"An' I speaks generally an' individually. Ebber sence de wah I've notid dis growin' 'spishness twixt people. Jess er few years back yer could lend yer naber er dust job flour er pound ob meat, an' hab some kondfidence in gittin ob hit back in de course ob six or seven weeks; now, ef yer lends hit ter him he moves away dat same night an' dar yer is lef' with nuffin ter sho' fer de parvishuns, 'ceptin' de kondfidence!"

"It is not exactly that sort of confidence we mean."

"Yas; I kno's dat. But whar's de diffrence. De higher ar' only de same kin' as de lower. Jeans britches is jeans britches jess de same, whadder dey is made for Ginral Graat or Ginral Tom Thumb. De same lackness ob kondfidence in bizness dat makes dese big fokes feel hard times an' keeps dem karomin' ebbery now an' den agin de po'-house ar' de same ez dat which keeps de nigger shinnin' 'round tes stays in sight ob er livin'!"

"That is true enough."

"Hit's jess dat wah, sho'! When de white fokes trus' one anudder dey allus keeps er lookout ter hed de creditor off fum de homestead offis er de bankrupt shop. An' den fokes bez ter put burgler's 'lams on dere corn-cribs, spring-guns in dere chicken-coops, trane er bull's-eye lantern on dere wood-pile ob nights an' set up ter watch fer niggers! Dat's de pass dat things is got ter now! Jess no longer dan Saturday night er white man out dar nex' ter me run two of his mos' kondfidenchil cullud nabers outen his smoke-house wid one ob dese new-fangled pistols dat yer has ter put in a tub ob water ter stop hit when his goes ter shootin'!"

"Well, let us hope for better times and an early return of confidence between man and man!"

"I've willin', but in de meantime I've done gib hit out dat I puts my trus' in my ole dubble-bar'l shot gun wid nine buckshots in each bar'l. I don't like ter be 'spish ob my nabers, but I likes ter be at de safe end ob de gun when I meets dem in my back-yard dese dark nights!"—*Atlanta Constitution.*

To See Through a Hole in the Hand.

Roll up a piece of paper, a pamphlet, to make a tube about nine to twelve inches long and an inch or so across. Put this tube to your right eye, and look through at some object, attentively keeping both eyes open. Now hold up your left hand, with its back towards you, and bring it near the lower end of the tube, looking at your hand with the left while your right eye is fixed on something through the tube. If you hit the right position, which you can do, putting the edge of the hand against, not over, the lower end of the tube, you will be surprised to see very clearly the things beyond. It is a very easy, but most surprising little experiment, and will please old as well as young people. You will, of course, wish to know why this is so, why there seems to be a hole where there is none. The scientific journals are talking about this, but their explanations would hardly suit youngsters. We usually look at the same thing with two eyes, and the two images make one in the mind. Here we separate the two eyes in an unusual manner, and the mind brings together the circle made by the tube for one eye and the hand seen by the other, and makes one of them. You can vary this in several ways. If, when looking through the hole in the hand, you stretch out the left thumb, so that it will be seen by the right eye through the tube, the thumb will appear to be directly across the hole in your hand. Instead of looking at your hand, use a card; make a black spot on the card as big as a half-dime, and look at it as before; the black spot will appear to be floating in the center of the hole, with nothing to hold it there. Another variation is to make a round hole in the card of the size of the half-dime; look at this hole with the left eye, so that the real hole will be within the imaginary hole; the hole will appear exceedingly bright, and surrounded by a ring of shadow.—*American Young Folks.*

Fooled by a Fortune Teller.

Miss Julia Lamar, a young lady living at No. 2228 Chestnut Street, is anxiously awaiting the return of a certain female fortune teller who called upon her a few days ago and told her fortune. The woman charged a dollar for revealing the hidden future, but as Miss Lamar hadn't the ready cash, she was induced to give the fortune teller an alpacas dress, two pairs of gold ear-rings, a breastpin and a gold buckle as security until the money could be paid, the fortune teller promising to return and exchange the articles for the money. The fortune teller gave Miss Lamar a red bag and told her to put it in the left side of her trunk and not to remove it until after she was married, then to throw it into the fire and burn it up. This would destroy all chances of marital misery. The woman said she lived at the corner of Twenty-first and Dayton Streets, but investigation has proven the statement to be false.—*St. Louis Times-Journal.*

CURED BY FAITH.

Miss Smith Relates Her Wonderful Recovery from Spinal Complaint.

[From the Philadelphia Times.]

It had been announced that Miss Jennie Smith would speak at the Green Street Methodist Church last night. When the hour came the church was packed from pulpit to gallery and scores of people had to stand for want of seats. The speaker was introduced in a brief address by the pastor, Rev. B. W. Humphries. Miss Smith did not propose to preach a sermon, but to give an illustration of the power of faith by relating her experience. When she was about 16 years old she was seized with a painful disease of the spine, which confined her to her bed for six months. At the end of that time her strength returned, but she had to be taught to walk before she had full control of her limbs again. Not long afterwards she was seized again with the same disease. For eighteen months she was in her bed. When she recovered again she once more had to be taught the use of her limbs. She remained in comparative good health till the year 1862, when for the third time she was seized with the malady and again took to her bed. For 16 years she was bed-ridden. During that time, at regular intervals, paroxysms would seize her affecting one of her limbs. So terrible would be the effect on these occasions that as many as six men would be required to hold her in her bed. On one occasion the paroxysm was so terrible in her limb that a man weighing at least 200 pounds sat down upon it in the endeavor to hold it, and the quivering was such that a stove in the room was shaken and the windows rattled as though a storm was blowing against the house. Afterward a box was made in which the limb was confined, the box being bolted to her cot. She was brought to the Homeopathic Hospital in this city, where her recovery took place in March last. Her deliverance from her long suffering was firmly of the conviction was a manifestation of the efficacy of prayer and of faith in Providence.

Here Miss Smith sat down, and Rev. Mr. Humphries read a statement from Dr. John C. Morgan of the Homeopathic Hospital, setting forth the facts of her recovery. The statement said in effect that on the 29th of March last he was aroused by an exclamation from Miss Smith's cot. "Oh, doctor," she cried. Then she asked the doctor if he would pray with her. She felt that she was going to sit up. He did so, and in a few minutes afterward she sat up in her chair. This was after all trials to bolster her up by means of pillows and hands had failed. From this time she began to have a strong belief that she would be able to walk again. So strong was it that she wrote home to her mother that she would have paroxysms no more. The Tuesday evening following her success in sitting up was the time she had set for the restoration of the use of her limbs.

Some of her friends were invited. To others she wrote asking them to offer up specific prayer on her behalf on that evening. After waiting till toward 12 o'clock she asked two persons present to take her by the arms, as she felt that the time had come. The brothers Garrigues, stationers and booksellers of this city, complied with her wish, and, with barely any effort on their part, she rose to her feet, and walked. Since that time she has had complete use of her limbs. Not long afterward she went to Ocean Grove, where, for some months, she conducted evangelistic work. The statement of Dr. Morgan, which closes with a description of her recovery of the use of her limbs, is also signed by B. Garrigues. The point of singularity in this recovery, aside from her own premonition of it, is that she at once recovered the use of her limbs, which had been entirely helpless for 16 years. On the occasions of her previous sickness, first of six months and afterward of 16 months, it took a good while even after her recovery to get into the way of walking again. The audience listened to the narration with great interest.

Criminal prosecutions have been instituted in Germany against no less than 18 Hanoverian gentlemen, on the ground of their having collected money toward a wedding present to be given to the Duke of Cumberland. In the house of one of these gentlemen a considerable sum of money was found, which was seized by the officials. The Cologne *Gazette* says that there can be no longer any idea of the Duke succeeding to the Brunswick crown. The only question is whether the difficulty of succession shall be settled in Brunswick, as it was in Eastern Frisia in the time of Frederick the Great, "by a Prussian battalion," or if Brunswick is to be made a duchy subject directly to the Emperor.

Mrs. John Winke, of Detroit, Mich., ran out to call upon a neighbor, leaving her 5-year-old son alone at home. The little fellow, while trying to entertain himself, got his father's pipe and went to the stove to light it with a handful of shavings. A spark fell on his calico waist and in an instant he was ablaze. Agonizing screams were heard by his mother, who ran home and found him a mass of blistered flesh, writhing and shrieking with agony that could not be alleviated. A physician was called, but the little sufferer died in less than half an hour.

Miss Pella M. Robbins, a teacher in the Plymouth, Mass., public-schools for 25 years without losing a day from her duties by sickness or bad weather, has just resigned.

Frank B. Wilkie, of the Chicago *Times*, is to publish his collection of letters from Europe to that paper.